

In This Issue:

- From the Desk of the Vice Chairman
- Message of the Month

Areas of Focus

- Research and Consultancy Wing
- Think-Tank Wing

- Education and Learning Wing
- Knowledge Management Wing
 - Recent Publications

NEWSLETTER

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From the Desk Of the Vice Chairman

Pakistan is a repository of spectacular diversity, versatility and cumulative cultural legacy of millennia. Its culture and heritage represents a unique combination of spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features within a system of values, traditions and beliefs evolved over a period of time ever since antiquity which has contributed enormously to the development of human civilization. From the archeological culture of Soan valley of Paleolithic period (stone age) and Mehrgarh relics of Neolithic period, through to Indus valley Civilization; Ghandara Civilization; Muslim, Sikh and British periods and the creation of Pakistan, there has been a rich succession of heritage which, in the exciting temporal journey, embellished Pakistan's spatial configuration and varied ecology through

out the flow of centuries. A few other areas in the world have witnessed such a rich succession of civilizations and possessed such an immense treasure of tangible and intangible culture as Pakistan.

Indus valley civilization or Harappan culture along the Indus river valley in Punjab and Sindh enriched the world around 2500 BC through diversified social and economic systems, urban planning and writing skills; Ghandara civilization from the first millennium BCE to the beginning of 2nd millennium CE influenced by Buddhism as religion and Indo-Greek artistic tradition as cultural identity, was famous for painting, sculpture, pottery, stupas and temples. The Vedic period with its spiritual and social

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Previous Publications



NEWSLETTER

4th August 2017 | Edition 14

order, the Achaemenid empire with its Persian imprints, and the initiation of cultural dialectics between the Hellenistic Greece and Hinduism - Buddhism duo during Alexander's invasion had profound influence in shaping the cultural contours of Pakistan. The relics of Maurya, Ashoka, Kushan, Gupta and Sassanid empires notably the magnificence of their architecture, sculptures and painting and religious rituals and practices enriched Pakistan's ancient past. However, the Muslim rule from 997 CE till the British occupation of India

in 1850s contributed immensely in giving a unique identity and value system to the cultural glory of Pakistan. This period represents the cultural zenith characterized by religious tolerance and co-existence, establishment of equitable social order, promotion of music, poetry and culinary art and marvels of architectural legacy. The Sikh empire from 1799 to 1849 mainly in Punjab led to the resurgence of local culture while the British heritage represents indelible traces of language, governance apparatus, educational institutions, architecture and infrastructure on the land of Pakistan.

Currently, Pakistan ranks 124 out of 136 countries – covered in the Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index 2017 released by the World Economic Forum. Earlier in 2015, among the list of 156 member states, UN World Trade

Organization ranked Pakistan at 105. According to estimates around 700,000 foreign tourists visited Pakistan in 2016. Average receipts per arrival have been estimated at \$328.3 whereas total revenue fetched by the country amounted to \$317 million.

There are major challenges that impede the growth of tourism industry. These include: lack of vertically integrated policy, regulatory and planning frameworks; institutional fragmentation and incoherence and as such mismanagement of cultural heritage; paucity of resources for the conservation and maintenance works as well as tourism friendly infrastructure; assiduous environmental damage and loss of bio and ecological diversity. Terrorism menace, though significantly controlled, further aggravates the situation.

Shahid Najam

Message of the Month

Culture and Development



Pakistani culture is a culture of unity. It embraces higher forms of knowledge (epistemology) and higher forms of being (ontology). The historical

consciousness of its people, in the process of development, has manifested various qualitative, original and creative forms which need to be acknowledged at proper forums.

The principle of 'unity in diversity' never considers multiplicity as a threat to unity. Rather, it provides cultural space to link various cultural units within the Pakistani culture. The need of the hour is to understand the dynamics of Pakistani culture and let these cultural forms sprout in an environment of freedom. It will be instrumental in establishing, among other things, the long-awaited linkages of culture and development at the grass-root level.

Recognition of multiple linguistic, artistic and cultural identities as shades of Pakistani identity, will usher in guaranteed peace, lasting solidarity and sustained development. However, the fruits of development can only reach the common man in consonance with the principles of Good Governance.

Dr. Shahzad Kaiser

From Research and Consultancy Wing

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has been able to draw the attention of and receive a wide currency amongst international commentators and policy formulators. The research team at BIPP therefore, has agreed to consider 'land-based' commerce as the running theme for BIPP's Annual Report on State of the Economy, 2017.

Authors are about to finalize their drafts for the report which is expected to be launched in November of this year.

Government has planned to setup 29 Special Economic Zones under CPEC to enhance the country's productive capacity; attract foreign investment; diversify exports and provide incentives for technological advancement. Pakistan has already adopted this

strategy by creating a number of industrial and export processing zones and providing generous incentive packages to attract firms. BIPP's research team is conducting research to evaluate performance of firms in industrial and export processing zones and analyze whether these zones have been successful in delivering on their objectives.

Imtiaz Ahmad, a research fellow at BIPP, has compared, in a recent working paper, the sectoral diversification of Pakistan's exports

with that of India and Bangladesh. Pakistan's key exporting sectors have produced a dismal performance as not even a single sector exhibited exports growth in double digits during 2011-2015 and all major sectors except clothing, processed food and unclassified products registered negative exports growth. Furthermore, International production, trade and investments are

within global value chains (GCVs)—a trend that has largely eluded Pakistan. Countries that have similar resource endowment, skills and technological base, and are Pakistan's current and potential competitors have become comparatively more open and integrated in international trade, and as result are making large gains by increasing the number of exporters, variety and value of exports.

Progress Report of the Smart Health Project "TEEMARDAR"

The DFID-SNG funded 'Supply-Chain Procurement and Distribution of Medicines at Government Health Facilities' project has now come to a close after a successful achievement and completion of the tasks and activities decided during the launch and inception phases. The transition tasks and activities that had to be completed in the 7 month period starting December, 2016 have also been completed successfully and documented in a final transition report that is submitted to the donor (SNG) and reviewed as we write this newsletter.

The project was initially completed on November the 30th, 2016 but owing to its perceived success, the SNG, BIPP and the primary and secondary health departments, DHQs and THQs in Sheikhpura unanimously decided to take it into another transitional round until June 30th, 2017 where a transition manager was to oversee the successful handing over of the project to the government and also ensure its sustainability, exit plans and ownership from the government authorities. The project has been successfully transitioned

and the following related objectives have also been met:

- Significant improvement in medicine availability and health service delivery in Sheikhpura.
- Project adoption and recognition by the government (health department).
- Effective installation, activation and working of the Teemardar online inventory management and tracking tool.

From Think Tank Wing

Friday 28th July, 2017: the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif was ousted from office on charges of misdeclaration that breached Articles 62 and 63 (that necessitate a parliamentarian to be truthful and honest) of the Constitution of Pakistan.

This was a historic day for its value in terms of the Supreme Court hearing a case with diligence and patience for an elongated period of around 14 to 15 months and then constituting a Joint Investigation Team (JIT) after a majority verdict to do so had been passed by the 5-member bench of the Supreme Court. The JIT interrogated the accused, documented its findings and presented them to the honorable Supreme Court that found the Prime Minister in breach of 62 and 63 and hence, disqualified him for

an indefinite period of time.

This is a major shift away from Pakistan's legacy of forming commissions and disregarding their findings. Not only were their findings given due consideration, the JIT report was debated upon during the Supreme Court's post-JIT hearings and the decision that was ultimately reached refereed quite frequently to the findings of the JIT.

As references against Mr. Sharif are now sent to the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) and the trial courts, the ruling party, PML-N and the opposition have a responsibility to support the newly elected Prime Minister and infuse the much needed stability in the political system leading upto the 2018 elections. It is yet to

be seen what long term economic impacts this decision bears on the country and whether this is the dawn of a new era of justice, rule of law and strengthening of the judiciary or is it just a passing fancy.

From Education and Learning Wing Summer Internship Program

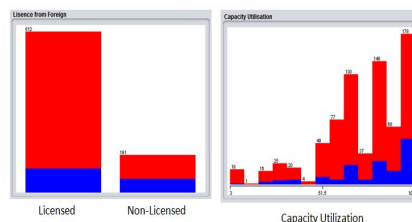
BIPP's Annual Summer Internship Program (ASIP), 2017 was launched in July with the purpose of providing university students with an environment where they can develop professional as well as technical and para-professional skills and gain experience in the areas of economic research and public policy. Our institute is consistently collaborating with student bodies of various universities, both public and private, in and outside Lahore to enable the youth to engage in effective and meaningful research and evidence based policy formulation and create value added knowledge products. Two students with a proven academic record in Economics have been selected through a competitive process as part of ASIP, 2017 and have been tasked to assist in authoring BIPP's 2017 annual research report and develop their capacity to produce and publish briefing notes and policy papers.

Performance Evaluation of Firms in Industrial Parks and Export Processing Zones

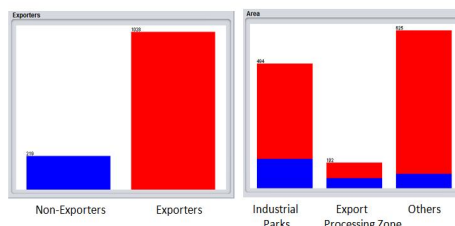
Mr. Imtiaz Ahmad (Research Associate) made a presentation to BIPP staff on the Performance Evaluation of Firms in Industrial Parks and Export Processing Zones. He spoke about the descriptive analysis of firms in industrial parks and export processing

zones in Pakistan and made relative comparisons with India and Bangladesh. In many indicators of firm characteristics, technology, performance and trade, Pakistan is doing much better than its South Asian neighbors. It also included the detailed analysis of the exporters by location, foreign technology licensing and capacity utilization of firms for all these countries.

Foreign Technology License and Capacity Utilization: Pakistan



Exporters by Location: Pakistan



From Knowledge Management Wing

Recent Publications

Working Paper

- Sectoral Diversification of Pakistan's Exports
- The Case for the Agriculture Sector: Major Challenges and Constraints

Editorials

- Pakistan at 80: the next 10 years
- Heat records in Asia — Pakistan is warming up

- What the Hamburg summit means to the world
- Migration: South Asians need to work together
- Pakistan and the building tensions in the Middle East

NEWSLETTER

4th August 2017 | Edition 14

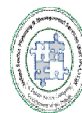


Mission Statement

IPP's mission is to improve welfare of the citizenry with particular emphasis on identifying policy measures that will lead to inclusive growth, socio-economic stability and sustainable development, besides fully harnessing the potential for regional and global integration.

Partners

District Delivery



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